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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3204

June 15, 2007

The Honorable R. David Paulison  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
United States Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Paulison:

I am writing to express my deep concern for the incomplete response on the part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding rebuilding efforts from the freak snowstorm that occurred in October of last year in Western New York.

I commend FEMA for its prompt response in the immediate aftermath of the October 2006 snowstorm. FEMA acted quickly with debris removal and aid to the most severely impacted areas. However, as a result of this storm, Western New York now faces the tremendous burden of removing thousands of tree stumps that are both unsightly and potentially dangerous.

At a cost of several hundred dollars per stump removed, this task could potentially drain limited financial resources of many of the affected communities. The recovery from this storm has overwhelmed the affected local governments and federal assistance is need as soon as possible.

Disasters like this unexpected snowstorm of great magnitude that hit Western New York last October require a response that takes in all of the factors that are exclusive to this type of occurrence. I respectfully request that FEMA address the thousands of remaining stumps in the affected communities as soon as possible. It has been over 8 months since this storm occurred and this response is long overdue.

I appreciate your consideration of this problem and look forward to your prompt reply. Please contact either David Garten or Danielle Kline of my staff at 202-224-4451.

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton